


# Chapter 25 outline: The Geography of Ancient Greece

- I. Three major regions
  - A. mainland – makes up part of southern Europe
  - B. **peninsula** (land surrounded on 3 sides by water) – **Peloponnesus**, (the hand) connected by a thin strip of land
  - C. islands – Crete is largest, mostly in the Aegean Sea (but not all)
- II. Physical Features
  - A. Mountains
    - 1. Forced people to live near coast
    - 2. isolated city-states → developed own culture
    - 3. High mountains made contact with outsiders sometimes easier than contact with fellow Greeks
  - B. Seas
    - 1. Surrounded by (w to e) Adriatic, Ionian, Mediterranean, and Aegean Seas → no rivers, so fresh water was hard to find
    - 2. deep inlets and protected bays → suitable for ports
      - a. shipbuilding
      - b. trade industry
    - 3. fishing - supplements food supply, provides another industry
- III. Travel
  - A. Mountains made travel over land nearly impossible (hw - 3 reasons why?)
    - 1. had to travel by foot, often in groups to bring necessary supplies
    - 2. communication difficult
    - 3. raises some class issues – who can afford vehicles? horses? slaves?
  - B. Water was easier mode of transportation
    - 1. became expert seafarers...
    - 2. but only during day
      - a. rocky shoreline was dangerous
      - b. no lights
      - c. no navigational tools
      - d. storms
- IV. Farming (hw – problems and solutions of farmers)

- A. Even in plains and valleys, water was hard to find → no irrigation
  - 1. no rivers
  - 2. rain fell in winter
  - 3. solution: **subsistence farming** – farming to feed yourself and your family
- B. limited flat land for growing
  - 1. farmers built **terraces** (wide earth steps) to create flat land
  - 2. cultivated crops that needed less land – grapes and olives
  - 3. cultivated crops that grew on hillsides – fruits and nuts
  - 4. kept bees for honey
- C. limited flat land for herding
  - 1. herded animals that could graze on the sides of mountains – sheep and goats
    - a. sheep provided wool for clothing
    - b. goats provided milk and cheese
  - 2. pigs and chickens needed little space
- D. limited good farmland often led to conflict and war between settlements
- V. Colonies (**colony** – settlement controlled by another country)
  - A. needed food – colonists sent out from communities to grow food and send it “home”
  - B. Preparations (*hw?*)
    - 1. consult oracle to see if they would be successful
    - 2. gathered food and supplies to get to colony
    - 3. collect “sacred flame” to bring
  - C. What made for a good colony location?
    - 1. natural harbors – deep water ports
    - 2. good farmland
    - 3. few neighbors or competitors for the land
  - D. Effects of colonies
    - 1. spread Greek culture
    - 2. increased food production and trade
- VI. Trade
  - A. **exports** from mainland: olive oil, pottery

B. **imports:** grain, timber (wood), metal

C. ships

1. large to hold lots of goods → super slow
2. square sails → had to have the wind at their back
3. no charts or compass → had to have local knowledge